

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Briefing for the Adenauer Visit

The State Department's briefing book on Adenauer is, I think, a more useful document in general than the one on Macmillan. Hillenbrand's scope paper (Tab A) is a good one, and the economic review at B is also well designed. The position papers seem to me rather long-winded, and I think you can easily wait for the briefing session Tuesday afternoon before you decide which ones you need to know more about. The same thing applies in spades to the contingency papers. The biographical information is adequate, but the CIA biography of Adenauer is a better one. None of these papers adequately makes the point -- stressed to me today by McCloy in a phone conversation -- that Adenauer is really a great man, with a striking personality and real personal warmth and wit when you get under the surface.

In addition to the State Department briefing book, I have received two excellent memoranda -- one is a brilliant paper from Henry Kissinger called "Visit of Chancellor Adenauer -- Some Psychological Factors," which is attached herewith. The other is a short paper from Douglas Dillon on the importance of getting German help on military procurement, in connection with the balance of payments. In addition, the yellow folder contains CIA material and a tabbed selection of the most interesting cables, winding up with Acheson's report of his conversation of yesterday.

A net summary of the objectives of the meeting would be this:

1. To reassure the Chancellor, in part by what we say and in part by hearing what he says;
2. To reassure him of our basic commitment to effective defense -- by arguing that this is what our whole new posture in NATO will be aimed at;
3. As a result of these political and military reassurances, to get his clear sympathy and support in stronger German economic cooperation, both on the balance of payments and on aid to underdeveloped countries.

I doubt that with a man of eighty-five we can expect to achieve these big goals if we do much talking about lesser matters.

McG. B.

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